GEOL 2020 HISTORICAL GEOLOGY SPRING 2017

Instructor Info

Dr Alan Coulson
339 Brackett Hall
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I reply to phone calls and emails from 8am-2pm M-F. Phone messages & emails left after 2 pm may not be received until the next day. Email access on the weekend is sporadic, so emails sent after 2pm Friday likely will not be received until Monday.

Office Hours

1:00-2:30 M W or by appointment

Meeting Times

Lecture: MWF 11:15 – 12:05
Lab: R 2:00-5:00 in 423 Brackett

Learning Objectives

Students who successfully complete the course should be able to do the following by the end of the semester:

1- Identify & classify specimens representing the major groups of fossil organisms
2- Outline Earth's geologic timescale
3- Explain the major tectonic and evolutionary events from throughout Earth's history
4- Research an Earth history topic and present your findings before your peers
5- Write a concise, professional, essay on a scientific topic

Materials

'Historical Geology' 6/7th ed. by Wicander & Monroe. Brooks/Cole Cengage Learning.

Policies

Any student with a disability requiring that special circumstances be met for their successful completion of the course should see me as soon as possible.

Academic dishonesty, harassing others, and disruptive behavior will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary action, including being dropped from the course. All cases of academic dishonesty & plagiarism will be reported to Academic Affairs with a recommendation that you receive an F for the entire course.

If the professor is late, students must wait 15 minutes before class is officially cancelled.

Cell phones are to be turned off during class & lab. Anyone caught texting. surfing, checking msgs, etc will be told to leave class for the day. A second violation will result in you being dropped from the course.

Grades
This class uses the traditional 10-pt scale.
A = 100-90 B = 89-80 C = 79-70 D = 69-60 F = 59-0
Decimals of 0.5 and higher are rounded up; decimals of 0.49E are rounded down.
Ex- 79.5 is a B. 79.49999 is a C.

Your grade is based on the following:
4 mid-term lecture exams, the one lowest mid-term is dropped: 14% each
Comprehensive final exam 13%
Term paper 10%
Class presentation 9%
6 Lab quizzes 1% each
Mid-term lab exam 10%
Final lab-exam 10%

Assignments not turned in on time will receive a grade of zero. No make-up exams will be given without a written, university-approved absence. **No extra credit will be given, and no grades will be curved. These policies are FINAL and will not be changed.**

Any grading mistakes must be reported to me within 1 week of the assignment being returned to the class and the original paper must be presented. After 1 week you cannot get points added back to your grade even if you find a grading error.

Attendance
Lecture attendance is not graded but is necessary to do well. Lab exercises & quizzes cannot be made up. One lab may be missed without extra penalty; for each additional lab missed your class grade is dropped 10% (= 1 full letter grade).

Schedule
This is approximate, I'll try to announce any changes well in advance.

M 1/16	No class (MLK Day)
M 2/6	Exam 1
R 2/16	Lab mid-term exam
F 3/10	Paper/presentation topic due by beginning of class
F 3/3	Exam 2
F 3/17	Last day to drop
3/20-3/24	Spring Break
F 3/31	Exam 3
R 4/6	No lab- Dept Symposium
M 4/10	Term paper due by 9:00 am
M 4/17	Presentation due by beginning of class
R 4/20	Lab final exam
M 4/24	Exam 4
F 4/28	Last day of classes
T 5/2	Final exam 8:00-10:30

Topics
This is the list of topics, in order, that we'll cover this semester. The corresponding chapters in your textbook are listed.

Lectures:

Introduction to Earth History	ch 1
Rocks & Minerals Review	ch 2
Sedimentary Rocks	ch 6
Stratigraphy	ch 5
Geologic Time	ch 4
Plate Tectonics Review	ch 3
Structural Geology	n/a
Paleoclimatology	ch x
Evolutionary Basics	ch 7
The Hadean & Archean Eons	ch 8
The Proterozoic Eon	ch 9
The Paleozoic Era	ch 10-13
The Mesozoic Era	ch 14-15
The Cenozoic Era	ch 16-19

Labs:
1- Geologic Time
2- Mineral & Rock Identification
3- Sedimentary Structures & Correlation
4- Geologic Dating
5- Paleoclimate Data
6- Mid-term exam (labs 2-5)
7- Biologic Classification
Week off- Exam the next day
8- Fossil Preservation & Invertebrate Identification- Early Paleozoic
9- Late Paleozoic-Early Mesozoic Fossil Identification
Spring Break
10- Geologic Maps
No Lab- Hydro Symposium
11- Museum Assignment
12- Lab Final Exam (labs 7-11)
13- Make-up day if we need it; if not, then no lab